

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims (~~striketrough~~ indicating deletion and underline indicating insertion) as follows:

1 - 8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A safety rope system for preventing injury to a user should the user fall from an elevated position ~~a fall~~, comprising:

a safety harness to be worn by the user ~~for engaging a wearer;~~

a standing rope line for attachment to a tree, pole, or the like ~~support structure, with~~
a first end of the standing rope line being adapted to be secured to the tree, pole, or the like; and

a sliding rope coupler for attaching the safety harness to the standing rope line, the sliding rope coupler loop comprising a ~~knotted~~ length of rope with multiple loops wrapped about the standing line of rope to be slidable along at least a portion of the length of the said standing rope line, with the sliding rope coupler having its ends joined together for attaching the safety harness thereadjacent, wherein said sliding rope coupler loop is freely repositionable ~~movable~~ along said standing rope line when not loaded, but resists sudden downward movement relative to said standing rope line when under load; and
~~coupling means for attaching said sliding loop to said safety harness.~~

10. (Currently Amended) The safety rope system of Claim 9, wherein said the first end of the standing rope line comprises a looped portion.

11. (Currently Amended) The safety rope system of Claim 9, wherein said standing rope line comprises a clip.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The safety rope system of Claim 9, wherein ~~said knotted length of the sliding rope coupler is made from a rope that~~ has a smaller diameter than ~~said that of the standing rope~~ line.

14. (Currently Amended) The safety rope system of Claim 9, wherein ~~said the sliding rope coupler loop~~ comprises a Prusik hitch.

15. (Currently Amended) The safety rope system of Claim 9, ~~wherein said coupling means comprises~~ further comprising a carabiner for releasably securing the sliding rope coupler to the standing rope line.

16. (Currently Amended) The safety rope system of Claim 9, wherein said safety harness comprises a belt.

17. (Currently Amended) The safety rope system of Claim 9, wherein said safety harness comprises a multi-point body harness.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Cancelled)

22. (New) A safety rope system for preventing injury to a user should the user fall from an elevated position, comprising:

- a multi-point safety harness to be worn by the user;

- a standing rope line for attachment to a tree, pole, or the like, with a first end of the standing rope line being formed as a loop to be secured to the tree, pole, or the like;

- a sliding rope coupler comprising a Prusik hitch for attaching the safety harness to the standing rope line, the Prusik hitch comprising a length of rope with multiple loops wrapped about the standing line of rope to be slidably repositionable along at least a portion of the length of the standing rope line, with the sliding rope coupler having its ends joined together for attaching the safety harness thereadjacent, wherein the sliding rope coupler is made from a rope that has a smaller diameter than that of the standing rope line, and wherein the sliding rope coupler is freely repositionable along the standing rope line when not loaded, but resists sudden downward movement relative to the standing rope line when under load; and

- a clip for releasably securing the multi-point safety harness to the sliding rope coupler.